(c) by when Government proposes to review/implement its revised decision so as to stop "poor pay which triggers Army exodus"?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The VI Central Pay Commission in its Report has recommended the following Revised Pay Scales for Army officers of the rank of Major to Brigadier;

Rank	Pre-Revised Scale+Rank Pay (Rs.)	Revised Pay Scale+Grade Pay+ Military Service Pay (Rs.)
Major	11600-325-14850+1200	15600-39100+6100+6000
Lt Col	13500-400-17100+1600	15600-39100+6600+6000
Colonel	15100-450-17350+2000	15600-39100+7600+6000
Brigadier	16700-450-18050+2400	15600-39100+8400+6000

No definite trend is noticed with respect to premature retirement/resignation subsequent to submission of VI Central Pay Commission Report.

The Government has not taken any final decision on the recommenadations of the VI CPC.

Indictment of MOD by CAG

3891. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in its recently submitted reports has indicted Defence Ministry for 57 gaping irregularities in acquisition process for the VIP aircraft and defective ammunition;

(b) if so, why his Ministry has deviated from the laid down procedures and well recognized norms of propriety in contracting the VIP aircraft valuing US$ 50 million without the benefit of competition and ammunition posing a risk to troops; and

(c) how army commanders with limited financial powers to meet operation requirements, squandered Rs. 10.75 crore in procuring stores not covered under their powers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Reports Nos. 4 & 5 of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 2007 presented to Parliament on 14th March 2008 contains, *inter-alia,* Paras relating to acquisition of VIP Boeing Business Jets, avoidable loss due to acceptance of defective ammunition and misuse of special financial powers delegated to Army Commanders. The extant instructions provide for submission of Action Taken Notes on the audit observations to the Ministry of Finance for onward transmission to the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Opening of defence airstrips to commercial use

3892. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some 30 defence airstrips will be opened up for commercial traffic helping to reduce congestion at the existing airports;

(b) whether after conducting techno-feasibility study at the defence airstrips in Chennai recently, the Civil Aviation Ministry moved to extend the concept of airstrips across the country;

(c) whether the Ministry of Defence agreed to the proposal made by Civil Aviation Ministry; and

(d) if so, by what time final decision will be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Some of the defence airfields are already being used for civil operations. Opening of the other defence airfields for civil operations is considered by Government as and when any such proposal is received, on a case to basis, keeping in view the operational requirements of the defence forces.

(b) to (d) No such study has been conducted by Airports Authority of India/Ministry of Civil Aviation in this regard.

Adequacy of maritime security

3893. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the maritime security is sufficient to protect offshore oil and gas blocks etc., in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to raise the manpower strength of the offshore Defence Advisory Group of the Indian Navy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) India's coastal waters are guarded by the Indian Coast Guard and the Indian Navy in coordination with the State Police. India's strategic and economic interests in Indian Ocean Region are well protected and the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard are geared into ensuring the safety of India's maritime interests.

The security and surveillance apparatus in India's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone have been enhanced substantially over the years. The improvement of such an apparatus, based on left needs, is an ongoing process.

Army officers involved in replaing kerosene and diesel with water in J&K

3894. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that senior Army officers including Brig. and Lt. Col. alongwith others have been recently chargesheetd by the J&K Police for allegedly replacing kerosene and diesel in tankers meant for troops inSiachen with water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that these officials have not been tried by the Army and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) A solitary incident came